

ADDITIONAL VIEWS OF COMMISSIONERS LARRY M. WORTZEL AND C. RICHARD D'AMATO

As former chairmen of the Commission, we write together to provide additional comments. With respect to the timing of annual reports and the issuance of interim reports, the terms of sitting Commissioners expire, and Congressional leaders appoint Commissioners to new terms that begin, in January of each year. Therefore, the Commission begins its formal schedule of work each year in January and concludes that annual work schedule at the end of the calendar year. If it arranged and conducted its work program on the basis of a different calendar, invariably newly-appointed Commissioners would be required to participate in determining key findings and recommendations to Congress based on Commission hearings, briefings, and other activities that occurred before they were appointed and in which they therefore could not have been participants. That situation would not yield the most thoroughly considered and carefully crafted findings and recommendations for consideration by Congress.

In order to provide Congress with a complete, logically-sequenced report based on all the Commission's activities during a year, and the findings and recommendations that flow from the products of those activities, the Commission for the past several years has submitted a comprehensive report at the end of the calendar year rather than in June. This arrangement has the additional virtue of placing the Commission's observations and recommendations in Congress's hands as preparations are underway for either a new Congress or the second session of a Congress that will convene the following January. In order to comply with the statutory requirement that the Commission submit a report to Congress no later than June 1 each year, the Commission on that date has provided another report (of which this report is an example) that summarizes its significant activities to that point in the year.

Last year the House of Representatives agreed with the Commission's view of this matter, and included a provision changing the date when the Commission is required to deliver its annual report to Congress – from June 1 to November 1 – in its Fiscal Year 2007 Appropriations Bill for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and Related Agencies that it passed in August 2006. However, that legislation was never considered by the full Senate. The request for such a change is included in the President's Budget for fiscal year 2008 that the Congress is now considering. We believe the merits of this proposed change are compelling, and are hopeful Congress will include the change in the fiscal year 2008 appropriations bill that will fund the Commission's activities.